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A BEAUTIFUL STORE.

Another Notable Addition to the Attractions of F Street.

JAPANESE ART EMPORIUM.

The Handsome Building Fitted Up by Mr. Kimon Nicolaides.

An Exterior Artistically Adorned and an Interior Filled with Rare and Costly Curios, Exquisite Old Vases and Bric-a-brac and Rugs of the Finest Design and Workmanship.

The most recent addition to the architectural attractiveness of that busy thoroughfare F street, is the building No. 1205, which Mr. Kimon Nicolaides has had remodeled, and in which his "Saratoga Japanese Emporium" is now located. The premises have been refitted from top to bottom, and when they are formally opened to the public the first of this week, they will be unsurpassed in the magnificence of their furnishings by any business house in this city. The new building—for practically it is new—rises four stories above the pavement, and in its grandeur stands out prominently among the business houses of that vicinity. The front, which is 25 feet broad, is of pressed brick, which contrasts in a striking manner with the ebony and gold finish to all the iron and woodwork which decorate the exterior. On the first floor the entire front, with the exception of entrances on either side of it, is utilized as a show window of large proportions. The handsome plate-glass bears, in neat gold letters, the inscription, "Kimon Nicolaides' Saratoga Japanese Emporium." These windows are surmounted by panels of expensive stained glass, worked in an ingenious and elaborate design. Above the show windows, on a level with the second story and running across the entire front of the building, is an iron balcony, painted to represent ivory inlaid with gold.

TWO RARE OLD JAPANESE LAMPS.
Each end of this balcony is ornamented with a colossal Japanese lamp, valued at \$1,000. These lamps are genuine antique curios. Mr. Nicolaides was offered, but refused, \$1,000 for them by a large New York importing establishment. Their duplicates do not exist in this country. They are seven feet in height and weigh over 300 pounds each. They are constructed of porcelain, and from their design authorities on such subjects place the date of their make 300 years ago, and most of this time they embellished the interior of a temple in Japan. Four electric incandescent lamps are so arranged about these massive curios as to brilliantly illuminate them. The effect is very handsome, and at night attracts much attention from those passing by. Between the lamps the space is occupied by a number of potted plants and palms, which add their beauty to the handsome appearance of the premises.

EXPENSIVE AND ARTISTIC SIGNS.
Across the front of the balcony in large block-shaped gold letters is the sign "Oriental Importations." Between the second and third and third and fourth stories are two other signs similar in character, which read, "1205—Kimon Nicolaides—1205" and "Saratoga Japanese Emporium." When Mr. Nicolaides ordered these signs he gave the builder but one instruction. They were to be the finest signs in the city. Without doubt the order has been faithfully carried out. The three signs cost \$350. On the roof is a tall iron railing, which gives a pleasing finish to this beautiful example of mute business architecture. A flagstaff surmounts the whole structure, from which floats a large white flag with "Nicolaides" worked in blue letters. The rebuilding, though under the direct supervision of Mr. Nicolaides, has been done by Mr. R. H. Bontz, the contractor.

SOME QUICK WORK.
Mr. Nicolaides obtained possession of the premises on the 12th of April and three minutes after the keys were turned over to him he had men at work clearing away those portions of the old structure which he wished to rebuild. The cost of the renovation was between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

A BEAUTIFUL INTERIOR.
The fine appearance of the front of the new store is excelled, however, by the magnificence of the interior. The entire first floor, 25x80 feet in extent, will be utilized as a show-room where the highest class of Japanese goods and Turkish rugs will be exhibited. The rooms and ceilings are papered with Japanese leather paper which Mr. Nicolaides imported at a cost of \$600 especially for this purpose. It was placed on the walls by W. B. Moses & Sons at a cost of \$250 and is acknowledged by wall-paper experts to be the finest piece of work in the city. Two colors are used, a silvery gray and a golden bronze. The designs on the paper are unique and are curiosities in themselves. Along the west wall are two and along the east wall are

four cabinets of a character never before constructed in this country. They were made from plans drawn by Mr. Nicolaides by a local cabinet maker. They are built of wood with an ebony finish with velvet wall paper of a rich dark maroon color for a background. Each of them is 13 feet long and about 11 feet high, surmounted by a pagoda roof. They are open and consist of numerous shelves of various dimensions upon which will be placed vases, jugs, various Japanese wares and bric-a-brac for the inspection of customers. The design is a most attractive one and will exhibit the goods placed on them in a most enticing manner. The cabinets were made at a cost of \$600. Between these cabinets the

Oriental rugs in this country. His reputation has spread to many foreign countries, to which he ships large consignments of goods. Mr. Nicolaides, though a young man, has had a wide experience and has traveled the world over. He speaks several languages with fluency and is an interesting conversationalist. By all those with whom he has come in contact he is admired for his energy, push, honesty and straightforward business principles. He is always ready to accommodate his customers and will do all in his power to aid them in obtaining what they desire. If he has not the article in stock he will obtain it when possible. To his perseverance and business methods alone are due the credit of his success.

of 1106 F street, next to Moses's store. His display soon brought him custom from everywhere, and he was not long in obtaining the best trade in the city. There are but few people in Washington who have not dealt with him, and his name is known from Maine to Texas and the Pacific Coast. He now supplies wares for nearly every handsome residence in Washington, from the White House down. The homes of most of the Cabinet officers and many of the Congressmen are supplied with rugs from his establishment. One of the most ardent admirers of his wares and most constant visitor was Mrs. Cleveland. She was much interested in the old pieces of bric-a-brac and greatly

of them are of designs the duplicates of which cannot be found outside of Japan. Of the beautiful Satsuma ware Mr. Nicolaides has a large collection, embracing many designs of exquisite delicacy and rarity.

It is a curious fact that the products of Satsuma should be so popular in this country as that province was the last to open its doors to foreigners. The tallest and strongest men of the Japanese race come from that vicinity, and even though the empire had welcomed those of other countries the Satsuma people held out by force of arms against the dictation of their own government, and it was only after a severe struggle that they finally succumbed. A large variety of the wares of this section of Japan is continually kept on hand by Mr. Nicolaides. To describe the various articles which the Saratoga Japanese Emporium contains would take a volume. There is everything there of an ornamental and useful character. Of China and porcelain ware of the most delicate and unique make there is an endless variety, including plates which run as high as \$72 a dozen. There is an example of Iro ware which is 200 years old.

The costliest rugs imported by Mr. Nicolaides from Smyrna and Constantinople are always to be found there in sizes and designs sufficient to suit any customer. Vases and jars from three inches to three feet in height worked in most artistic and pleasing shapes and of every variety of hue can be found in abundance. Mr. Nicolaides always has on hand a most select line of Japanese embroidery and cloths for decorating purposes. The finest silk handkerchiefs of the very best material for both ladies and gentlemen he imports by the hundred dozens. The line of bronze ware which he carries is not to be excelled in value in this country. In Mr. Nicolaides's private apartments he has a collection of pictures by old artists, of which he is very proud. A number of them he bought in Rome.

VASES WITH A HISTORY.
"Here," said Mr. Nicolaides to THE HERALD reporter, "are two vases which have a history. They were made, it is believed, by two artists whose names are set in relief in solid gold on the outside. The time at which these two men lived was two hundred years ago according to history, and consequently they must be that old. These vases, it is believed, were made for a prince after a certain pattern submitted to each. Though similar in shape there is a trifle of difference in height between the two, and the designs, as you will notice, are not the same. I have been offered \$350 for the pair by a professor of Yale College, but I would not part with them for less than \$500."

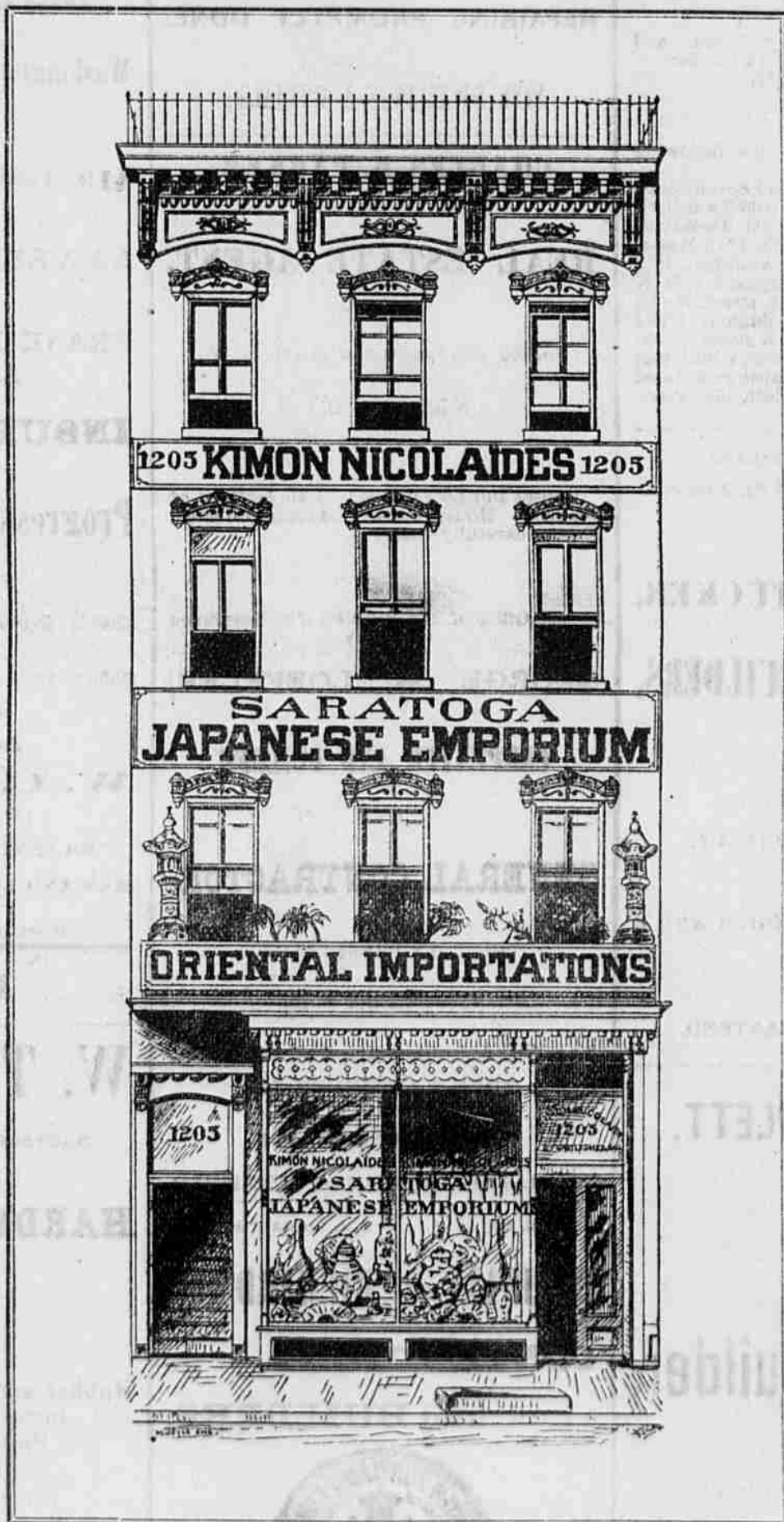
The vases referred to represent the height of artistic skill and workmanship. They are not over four inches in height and are less than that in circumference. The bowl is of solid sterling silver with two small handles of the same metal. Twining around the mouth is a dragon. The finest work is on the designs which are at the base of the bowl. The figures, which are Japanese, are most delicately executed and each line is either made of an inlaid strip of gold or silver. The maker's name in Japanese characters is on the side of each in relief letters of gold.

Notwithstanding the improvement there will be no change in the welcome extended to every one to visit Mr. Nicolaides' establishment. The prices remain the same and the old customers will find the employee as cordial and obliging as they were at the old store. The management is the same, and everything will be run on exactly the same principles as heretofore. Mr. Nicolaides never asks any one to buy but invites everyone to inspect his goods for himself. A visit to the handsome store will repay one, for an inspection of the magnificent wares and curios cannot but be interesting and instructive.

For a New School Building.
The Commissioners have awarded the contract for the construction of the eight-room school building on the site in square 891, on G street, near Seventh, to G. R. Walters, the lowest bidder, for \$21,495. The appropriation for this building is now available and the work on it will be begun as soon as the contract is drawn up and signed. The other bidders were Columbus Thomas, \$22,915; J. H. Howlett, \$26,000; James L. Parsons, \$23,900; J. M. Dunn, \$23,300.

Architect T. F. Schneider has prepared plans and has commenced the erection of a very handsome residence for Mr. L. H. Emmert at the intersection of Eighteenth and Q streets and New Hampshire avenue, adjoining the new house of Mrs. Clover. It will be three stories with basement and attic, 25 feet front, which will be of stone, and face New Hampshire avenue, and will extend through to Eighteenth street 80 feet. The rear on Eighteenth street will be finished as a front of pressed brick and stone. The New Hampshire front will be broken by circular bay windows and high tiled roof. The interior will be finished in mahogany, oak and other hard woods, and will be heated by hot water Emmert & Hasler are the builders, and the cost will be \$20,000.

Bids were opened last week by architects Schulze and Goerner for the erection of the new Concordia Church, at Twentieth and G streets northwest. Henry Klinge was awarded the brick work, and the contract for all the other work was given to Nicholas Eckhardt.



space will be occupied by handsome show cases.

At the rear of the store in an addition which was built there will be exhibited the large stock of Oriental rugs, and extensive line of Japanese screens. In this part of the store, which is lighted by a large skylight, the office is located.

The store will be lighted by six handsome and elaborate chandeliers, while the show window is supplied with electric light. The basement and part of the upper stories will be used for storage purposes, while the remainder will be occupied as apartments by Mr. Nicolaides and his family. The interior decorations of this building are of a character that but few business establishments in this country can boast of. Thousands of dollars are represented in the outlay. Everything is on the grandest and most expensive scale.

MR. KIMON NICOLAIDES.
The exclusive proprietor of this establishment is Mr. Kimon Nicolaides, a gentleman who enjoys the distinction of being the most extensive importer of Japanese goods and

Mr. Nicolaides came to this country from Greece in 1874 and resided first in Boston.

When the Centennial opened he obtained a stand there adjoining the Brazilian Café and attracted a great deal of attention by his display of oriental wares. There he first made his reputation as an unsurpassed dealer in Japanese goods and this name has ever clung to him. During forty days he made the sum of \$10,000 by his sales. With this sum he traveled all over the world making acquaintances which have assisted him in obtaining the best class of goods since then and at the same time personally visiting the locations from which he now obtains them. When he landed in New York after his trip around the world his capital was \$1. He reached Saratoga and there commenced the business which he has carried on so successfully ever since. He added to his fame as an importer of original and exclusive designs and made considerable money. While in Saratoga he married.

MR. NICOLAIDES'S CAREER IN WASHINGTON.
In the fall of 1885 Mr. Nicolaides came to this city, and opened a store in the basement

admired the delicate and artistic fancies in china and porcelain, which came to this country through the agency of Mr. Nicolaides. As the character of his goods became well known his trade and reputation increased, until now he is recognized by large New York houses as the most extensive importer of Japanese wares and Oriental rugs in this country. He not only ships to every State and Territory in the United States, but to Buenos Ayres, Rio Janeiro, and France. His facilities for securing goods from Japan, China, Constantinople, and Smyrna are not surpassed by any importing house in America. He has agents in these places who personally take charge of all orders that he sends to them.

The store of Mr. Nicolaides is a veritable curiosity shop, which would set a connoisseur in bric-a-brac and chinaware wild with delight. There is everything there that one desirous of making a collection of this class of articles could wish for. There are fans, of which he makes a specialty, of every kind and description, ranging in price from 5 cents to \$5. Some